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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

NEWS
Wildlife crossing milestone
p4

SPORTS
Huge wins for UConn and Florida
p18

HOW TO
Have more fun with games
p24

April 18, 2025 • Vol. 6, Issue 261 • $5.99

Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

ANGKOR WAT

Discover an architectural wonder in Cambodia p12

DID YOU KNOW?

- Angkor Wat is the world's largest religious structure.
- The 400-acre site was built in the 12th century.
- Originally a Hindu temple, it is now a Buddhist shrine.

President Donald Trump announcing new tariffs

DID YOU KNOW?
On July 4, 1789, the first tariffs were signed into law in the US, charging other countries a 5% tax on imported goods.

Nintendo update

The Japanese game company Nintendo announced that due to uncertainty over tariffs, the new Switch 2 console would not be available for people to preorder starting April 9, as previously planned. The Switch 2, which is manufactured in Asia, is still expected to go on sale on June 9 as originally scheduled.

US tariffs shake up world economies

On April 2, President Donald Trump announced major economic policy changes involving tariffs, which are taxes imposed by the government on goods brought into the US from other nations. The tariffs will affect most of the countries in the world.

What are the tariffs?

The White House announced two major tariff plans. One is a universal "base line" tariff of 10% on almost all items imported into the US, except for products from Canada and Mexico. (A 25% tariff on goods from Canada and Mexico, with some exceptions, had already been imposed in March.) The second plan is what Trump calls a "reciprocal" (done in return) tariff. These taxes—which range from 1% to 40% and are in addition to the 10% base tariff—apply to at least 50 countries. These include some of the US's biggest trading partners, such as China, Japan, India, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, and European Union (EU) countries.

Protesters in Washington, DC

What is the goal of the tariffs?

Trump called April 2 "liberation day" and said his policies would free the US from unfair trade practices that have hurt American businesses for years. He said he wants to make it so expensive to export goods into the US that companies will want to make their products in the US instead. Trump said that would increase jobs and wages for American workers. He also said he sees the tariffs as a way to pay for major tax cuts he hopes to announce this year.

What was the global effect?

The announcement caused worldwide economic uncertainty and led to record drops in many nations' stock markets (financial systems that are an indicator of the health of a nation's economy). By April 7, the US stock market had fallen by 9.1% in one week and lost $6.6 trillion in value, amounting to the largest weekly loss since the Covid-19 pandemic began in 2020.

Other countries pushed back against the tariffs. China, which faced a 34% tariff by the US, retaliated by imposing a 34% tax on US goods. The EU offered to cut tariffs on cars and other products if the US agreed to do the same. If the nations could not reach an agreement, however, the EU said it was preparing a list of items imported from the US that it would impose tariffs on. Vietnam, which was hit with a 46% tariff, asked the US to delay it, while Japan (24%–25% tariff) and South Korea (25% tariff) said they wanted to meet with the Trump administration to negotiate the terms.

How did people react?

Many economists and business owners said companies will make up for the cost of tariffs by raising prices on goods like groceries, cars, clothing, and electronics—including many products that are made in the US but contain parts that are imported from elsewhere. Experts also said higher prices could cause people to spend less money, which would weaken the US economy. Some Trump supporters said the stock market would rebound and the President's new policies would work once other countries began to negotiate with the US. On April 5, mass protests against Trump's policies, including tariffs, took place at more than 1,300 sites across the US and US territories, and in foreign cities like London, England, and Paris, France.

What will happen next?

When *The Week Junior* went to press on April 8, business leaders in the US—including some who support Trump—were expressing concerns about the economy and asking Trump to pause the tariffs. Trump also threatened to raise tariffs on Chinese goods by an additional 50% if China did not lower its retaliatory taxes on US goods. On April 3, a bill was introduced in the US Congress (branch of government that makes laws) that would require tariffs to have Congressional approval so that Trump could not enact them on his own. It's unclear whether that could eventually become law.

Spring holidays to be observed

Two spring holidays focused on themes of hope, freedom, and new beginnings are set to start around the world. From April 12–19, Jewish people will observe Passover, and on April 20, Christians will celebrate Easter.

Passover honors the Jewish people's escape from slavery in ancient Egypt, as told by the Torah (Jewish religious text). It begins at sundown and lasts for eight days. Families go to temple and, on the first two nights, gather for a special meal called a seder to retell the story of Passover. A seder plate holds six symbolic foods, including bitter herbs to represent the bitterness of slavery, and matzo, a flatbread Jews ate when fleeing Egypt.

In the Bible (Christian religious text), Easter is the day Jesus Christ came back to life. The days leading up to Easter are known as Holy Week and include Palm Sunday, which marks Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, and Good Friday, which remembers the day he died. During this time, Christians attend church. On Easter, they also enjoy time with their loved ones and festive meals.

A seder plate

Spain celebrating their Women's World Cup win in 2023

WOW! The US has won four of the nine FIFA Women's World Cups that have taken place, which is more than any other country.

US to host Women's World Cup

FIFA, the organization that oversees professional soccer worldwide, announced on April 3 that the US and partner nations are set to host the 2031 FIFA Women's World Cup. The tournament is the largest competition in women's international soccer and takes place every four years.

The US will share hosting duties with other countries that belong to Concacaf, a regional FIFA organization that covers North and Central America. Matches will take place in the US and other countries that will likely include Canada and Mexico. US soccer representatives said more details on partnerships and locations will be shared in the near future. The Concacaf partners submitted the only bid to host the 2031 games.

The US previously hosted the 1999 Women's World Cup, which they won, and the 2003 competition. No other countries in North or Central America have hosted it. The US hosted the men's World Cup in 1994 and will cohost it in 2026 with Concacaf members Canada and Mexico.

FIFA also announced on April 3 that the UK is set to host the Women's World Cup for the first time in 2035. England last hosted the men's World Cup in 1966 and won the top trophy. FIFA said the UK was the only valid bidder for the hosting role.

The first Women's World Cup was held in China in 1991, with 12 teams. In 2031, 48 teams will compete, making it the biggest tournament yet. US soccer officials said they are "committed to delivering a tournament that leaves a lasting legacy—one that elevates women's soccer across the world and inspires future generations of players and fans."

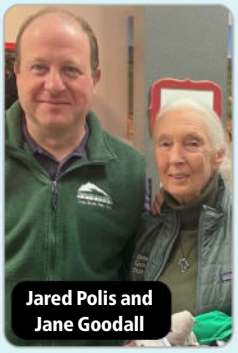
IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A NEW TREE

Last year in the nation's capital, Stumpy, a small cherry tree that was beloved by visitors, had to be cut down. Now there's Stumpy II. The short tree had its top cut off but still sprouted branches and blossoms this spring.

Stumpy II

CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY



Jared Polis and Jane Goodall

Renowned wildlife advocate and conservationist Jane Goodall turned 91 on April 3. To honor her birthday, Colorado's governor, Jared Polis, declared it Animals Matter Day in the state. Polis said Goodall is "a true champion for wildlife and a beacon of hope for our planet" and called on others to continue her work.

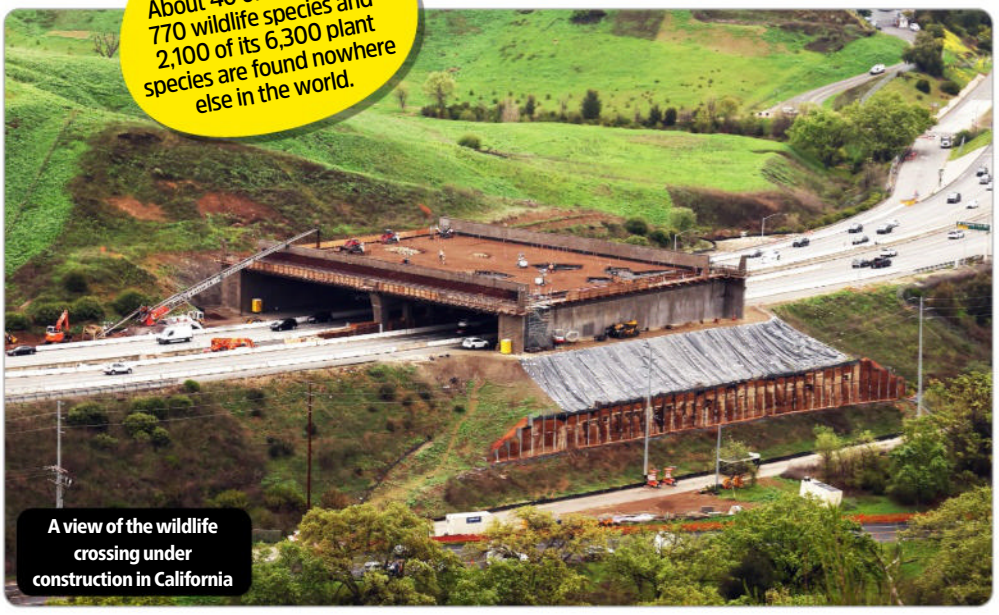
A FIRST-TIME MOM

A Galápagos tortoise named Mommy, who is believed to be about 97 years old, welcomed her very first hatchlings. Mommy has lived at the Philadelphia Zoo in Pennsylvania for 93 years. Her mate, Abrazzo, is about 96 years old. The babies offer "much-needed help" for the critically endangered species, the zoo said.

One of the hatchlings

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES (4); LION FORGE ENTERTAINMENT; ON THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); KEVIN AMBROSE; COURTESY OF THE GOVERNOR OF COLORADO; PHILADELPHIA ZOO; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); NINTENDO

WOW! About 40 of California's 770 wildlife species and 2,100 of its 6,300 plant species are found nowhere else in the world.



A view of the wildlife crossing under construction in California

Who is Wallis Annenberg?

The wildlife crossing in California is being named after Wallis Annenberg (above). Since 2009, she has been the chair of the Annenberg Foundation, which her father, Walter, established to fund initiatives that advance public well-being. The foundation has given more than $5 billion to more than 2,700 organizations.

Wildlife crossing reaches milestone

An important milestone was reached in California's effort to create the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing, which will make the area safer for animals to live. The $92 million project, which has been under construction since 2022, stretches across one of the nation's largest and busiest highways.

Why are crossings useful?

Wildlife crossings are structures that allow animals to safely cross roads or other human-made barriers. Highway 101 in California runs through the Santa Monica Mountains and the Simi Hills. When it was built about 100 years ago, it trapped various species on one side or the other, significantly decreasing their habitat and limiting their population growth. Besides protecting animals, wildlife crossings also make roads safer for people because they minimize the likelihood of cars hitting animals. Collisions between large animals and vehicles result in about 200 human fatalities and 26,000 injuries a year, according to federal reports.

What milestone was reached?

On April 2, workers began pouring 6,000 cubic yards of soil on top of the newly constructed bridge. It will take several weeks to finish placing the soil over the crossing. In the project's next phase, plants will be added to entice animals to use the bridge. Once it is complete, the crossing will be the world's largest bridge of its kind, spanning the 10 lanes of Highway 101, nearly 22 feet above the road.

What animals will be helped?

Cougars, also known as mountain lions, stand to benefit the most from the crossing. They must travel many miles to search for food and to find mates, and being hit by cars while trying to cross highways is their leading cause of death. Officials hope the crossing will safely expand their habitat and prevent them from going extinct. The bridge will also benefit bobcats, deer, desert cottontail rabbits, and monarch butterflies, among other species.

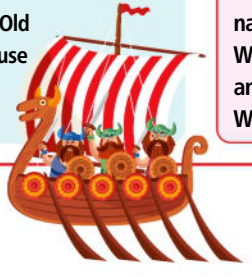
What will happen next?

Weather permitting, workers will begin adding about 50,000 native plants to the bridge in May. The crossing is expected to be complete and open to animals in 2026.

WORD OF THE WEEK

VIKING

The Vikings raided and settled many parts of northwestern Europe between the 8th and 11th centuries. Their name may come from the Scandinavian *vík* (meaning "creek" or "inlet") since they set sail from inlets. Or it may be based on the Old English *wic* ("camp") because they set up temporary camps during their raids.

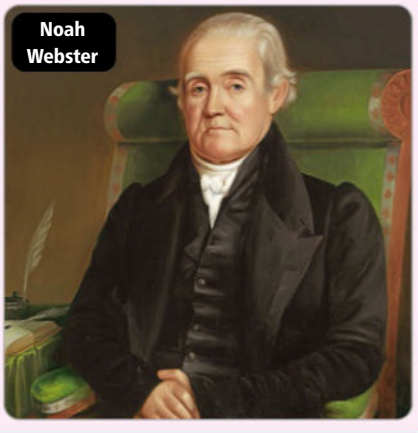


THE WEEK IN HISTORY

April 14, 1828

First US dictionary is published

On April 14, 1828, Noah Webster, a teacher in Connecticut, published the American Dictionary of the English Language. He spent nearly 30 years compiling it to provide the US with a standardized language. The name changed to Webster's Dictionary after Webster died in 1843 and G. & C. Merriam and Co. acquired it. Now named the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, it is in its 11th edition.



Noah Webster

Cory Booker

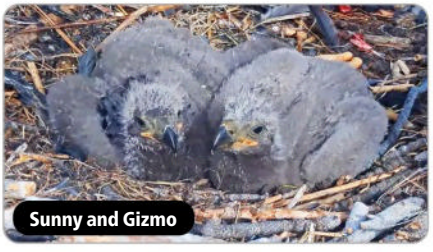
Longest Senate speech made

Senator Cory Booker, a Democrat from New Jersey, has broken the record for the longest speech delivered on the Senate floor. Starting on March 31, he spoke continuously, without breaks, for 25 hours and 5 minutes to express his opposition to President Donald Trump's actions since taking office. The previous record was set in 1957 by Strom Thurmond, a Republican senator from South Carolina, who was opposing the passage of the Civil Rights Act.

Mike Pence

Former Vice President honored

Former Vice President Mike Pence will receive the 2025 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award. Created in 1989, the award is named for the 35th US President. Pence, who was chosen for his decision to certify the 2020 Presidential election, said he was "humbled and honored" to receive the award. It will be presented to him on May 4 at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston, Massachusetts.


Sunny and Gizmo

Names of baby eagles revealed

Sunny and Gizmo are the names of two eaglets born to mates Jackie and Shadow, who have been famously viewed on a live cam since 2018 in Big Bear, California. The names were selected from 54,000 suggestions submitted on social media. Students at schools in Big Bear Valley voted on the names. The eagles can be viewed in their nest at friendsofbigbearvalley.org.

BIG HITS
The Toronto Blue Jays hold the record for most home runs in a single MLB game, hitting 10 in 1987.

Paul Goldschmidt of the New York Yankees using a torpedo bat on April 4

Baseball bat causes controversy

A new kind of bat called a torpedo bat that is being used by some players in Major League Baseball (MLB) has been making headlines as the season begins. The bat has drawn curiosity as well as criticism.

Compared to traditional bats, the torpedo bat has less wood at the end and more wood in the area that makes contact with the ball. This shape allows for a greater impact when the ball is hit by the bat. Hitters can also swing a torpedo bat faster than other bats. Despite its different shape, the bat meets MLB rules stipulating that bats can be no more than 42 inches long or 2.61 inches in diameter.

Aaron Leanhardt, a former physics professor at the University of Michigan, is credited with inventing the torpedo bat. He came up with the idea while working as a Minor League hitting coordinator for the New York Yankees in 2022 and 2023. He may not have been the only person with the idea. Hillerich & Bradsby, a maker of baseball bats, has reportedly been working on bats with this shape since 2021.

A traditional bat (left) next to a torpedo bat

This season, the torpedo bat began causing controversy on March 29, when some players for the New York Yankees used it in a game against the Milwaukee Brewers. The Yankees hit a record nine home runs in their 20–9 win. Brewers' pitcher Trevor Megill suggested that the bat may provide an unfair advantage to hitters who use it.

Players from other teams, such as Ryan Jeffers of the Minnesota Twins, Junior Caminero of the Tampa Bay Rays, and Francisco Lindor of the New York Mets, have also used the torpedo bat. Some players for the Baltimore Orioles have tried it, said their hitting coach Cody Asche, and the Atlanta Braves have reportedly ordered the bat.

Not all players want to use it. Yankees star Aaron Judge, who hit three home runs on March 29, said he will stick with traditional bats. Triston Casas of the Boston Red Sox said the same.

The MLB could ultimately decide to ban the torpedo bat. But for now, officials said it's too early to tell whether it will unfairly affect the game.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Wild turkeys chase mail carrier out of Massachusetts neighborhood" *UPI*

GETTY IMAGES (4); AP; FRIENDS OF BIG BEAR VALLEY; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); ANNENBERG FOUNDATION

Around the world

Lava spilled from a crack that opened.

Grindavik, Iceland
Volcano erupts

On April 1, a volcano near the town of Grindavik erupted for the 11th time since 2021. Several earthquakes also took place in the area on the same day. The eruption caused a huge crack to appear in the ground, growing to about three quarters of a mile long. Tourists and local residents had to be evacuated and the famous Blue Lagoon spa was closed, but the volcanic activity slowed down later in the day.

The Pope on April 6

St. Peter's Square, Vatican City
Pope speaks at service for the sick

Pope Francis, the head of the worldwide Catholic church, has appeared in public for the first time since March, when he left the hospital after a five-week stay. On April 6, he spoke briefly at a special Mass (religious service) for sick people and healthcare workers. The service was part of the Jubilee, a yearlong period of prayer and reflection that happens every 25 years. During this time, some Catholics travel to Vatican City, where the Pope lives.

A beach cleanup in Paros

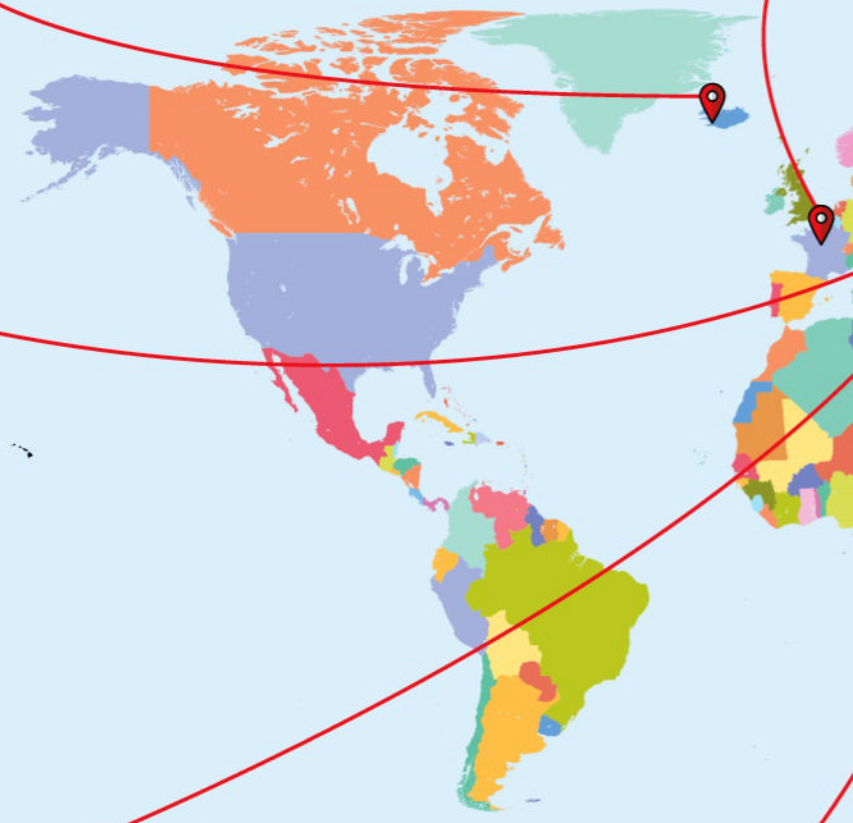
Paros, Greece
Aegean Islands affected by floods

Authorities declared a state of emergency on some Greek islands after storms in the Aegean Sea caused heavy floods. Paros, the worst-hit island, received more rain in a few hours on April 1 than would typically fall in a month. Water turned streets into streams and carried cars and other objects out to sea. No deaths have been reported, and cleanup operations are underway.

Paris, France
Leader vows to fight ban

Marine Le Pen, a leading candidate for president from the far-right National Rally party, announced on April 6 that she will fight a five-year ban that prevents her from running for office. The ban was issued after Le Pen was found guilty of embezzling (stealing) government funds. She told supporters in Paris, "I won't give up."

Marine Le Pen in Paris



Tel Azekah, Israel
Surprise discovery

While on a family walk, 3-year-old Ziv Nitzan accidentally found an amulet that is more than 3,800 years old. An amulet is an object believed to bring good luck. This one was designed to look like a scarab beetle, an insect that ancient Egyptians used as a symbol of new life. Experts say the amulet was actually made by the Canaanites, an ancient group of people who lived in the Middle East and were influenced by Egyptians.

Ziv Nitzan holds the amulet.

GETTY IMAGES (7); PARRTIIMAAUSTRALIA.COM; ALAMY; EMIL ALADJEM/ISRAEL ANTIQUITIES AUTHORITY

Around the world

The plant on its last day

Helsinki, Finland
Final coal-fired plant closes

Finland's last coal-fired power and heat plant shut down on April 1. This type of power plant generates energy by burning coal, a fossil fuel that contributes to climate change. In 2019, Finland's previous government passed a law to ban the use of coal by 2029. Today, wind power provides a quarter of Finland's energy.

Runners in the race

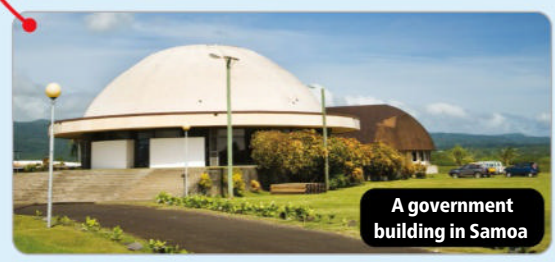
Pyongyang, North Korea
International marathon resumes

For the first time in six years, North Korea hosted a marathon (26.2-mile race) for about 200 runners from around the world. The Pyongyang International Marathon launched in 1981 but has not taken place since the country closed its borders during the Covid-19 pandemic. According to government-run media, North Korean runner Pak Kum Dong was the first to cross the finish line at the race on April 6.

South Koreans celebrate.

Seoul, South Korea
President removed from office

On April 4, judges in South Korea's Constitutional Court voted to remove President Yoon Suk Yeol from power. In December 2024, Yoon tried to introduce martial law (military rule), but lawmakers voted to block his order within hours. Yoon was then impeached (charged with a crime while in office), suspended, and arrested. Now that he has been officially removed from office, an election to replace Yoon must take place by June 3.

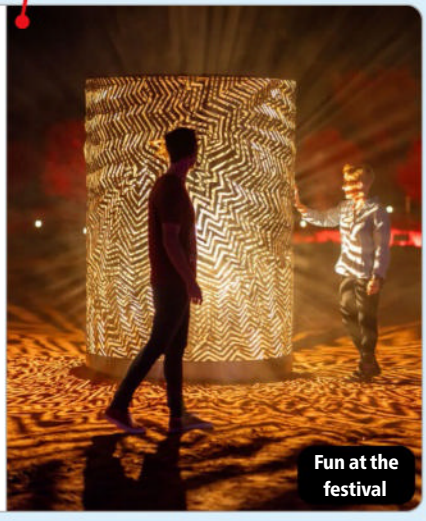

A government building in Samoa

Samoa
Power blackouts across country

Samoa's prime minister, Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, has declared a 30-day state of emergency because of power outages. Electricity services in Samoa are often disrupted by tropical storms, but there have been an unusually high number of blackouts across the islands recently. Officials blame technical issues and storm damage but are working to provide relief to those affected.

Alice Springs, Australia
Festival marks 10 years

Parrtjima, a 10-day light festival, kicked off on April 4 in Alice Springs. Parrtjima celebrates the culture of Australia's Aboriginal people, who lived on the continent for thousands of years before European people arrived. This is the event's 10th year, and the theme is "Timelessness." Attendees can view light installations and displays, go to live music shows, and take part in a drumming workshop.


Fun at the festival

Should people get time off to care for pets?

Some people say pets need the same care as any other family member.

What you need to know

- **About 66% of households in the US have a pet, including 65.1 million with a dog, 46.5 million with a cat, and 11.1 million with a fish.**
- **Surveys have found that most pet owners think of their pets as members of the family.**
- **Some companies offer employees paid time off to care for a new pet.**
- **Last fall, the New York City Council proposed a bill to let people use their paid sick leave to care for a sick pet. It has not become a law yet.**

FUN FACT Nearly 72% of all households in Wyoming have a pet, the most of any state in the US.

When people have a baby, they often take paid time off work, called family leave, to care for their new addition. And parents with a sick child often leave work to take them to the doctor. But these policies don't apply when the "little one" is a pet, not a person—even though many Americans consider their pets part of the family. To address this, some companies have started offering "pawternity leave"—paid time off to care for pets. Pet owners say this recognizes how important pets are to them. To others, however, it's not a good use of company time and resources. What do you think? Should people get time off to care for pets?

Yes—it's good for everyone

Pets are a lot of work, especially when they're young, and they get sick just like children do. Workplace policies should be more humane by acknowledging that. Plus, studies have shown that pets are great for people's well-being. If employers make it easier for people to have and care for their animals, they'll have happier, healthier employees who are focused and productive at work instead of distracted with worry about their pets. Generous pet-care policies could also encourage people to adopt shelter animals, which often need extra care. Giving workers time for that could help many wonderful animals find loving homes.

No—pets aren't people

People say pets are family, but the truth is that animals simply don't require as much work as human children—especially when they're babies. It's not reasonable to compare the two, and there's no need for dedicated time off for pet care. If someone chooses to adopt an animal, they know it comes with certain responsibilities, so they should be prepared to use their vacation time to care for their furry friends. Besides, giving someone time off to care for a pet means that more work will be passed on to other employees. That's not fair to workers who choose not to have pets or can't have them because they're allergic.

YES Three reasons people should get time off to care for pets

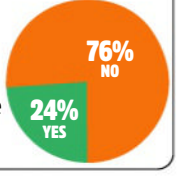
1. **Pets need a lot of care, just like kids do, and employers should acknowledge that with their policies.**
2. **Giving employees time off to care for their pets means they'll be happier and more productive when they're at work.**
3. **Policies that allow time for pet care could make shelter adoptions more likely.**

NO Three reasons people should not get time off to care for pets

1. **Pets might be thought of as family, but they're just not the same as children.**
2. **People who adopt pets should take responsibility for that decision and set aside vacation time to care for them.**
3. **It's not fair to employees without pets, who will have to take on extra work when pet owners are out.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if it is OK to decorate public art. Your votes showed that you want to protect art on display for all to see: 76% said no, while 24% said yes.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think people should get time off to care for pets or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

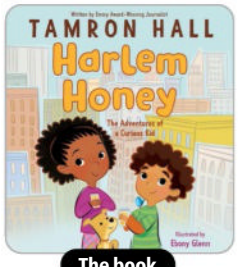
The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

GETTY IMAGES

Discovering the new

A children's book by Tamron Hall celebrates curiosity in unfamiliar places.

Tamron Hall, 54, is an award-winning journalist and television host, known for her daytime talk show *The Tamron Hall Show*. Now she is also a children's book author with the publication of *Harlem Honey: The Adventures of a Curious Kid*, a picture book inspired by her son.



The book

As a teenager in Lulling, Texas, Hall became interested in journalism by watching Iola Johnson, the first Black woman to anchor the news in Dallas. She earned a degree in broadcast journalism from Temple University in Pennsylvania and rose to prominence at NBC, which she had joined in 2007. There, she co-anchored *NBC Nightly News*, hosted a primetime hour on MSNBC, and became the first Black woman to co-host the *Today* show. In 2019, *The Tamron Hall Show* premiered on ABC. Since then, Hall has won two Emmys as the host and recently celebrated its 1,000th episode.

Now Hall is sharing her love of telling stories with young readers. *Harlem Honey* follows Moses, named after her 5-year-old son, who moves from Texas to Harlem in New York City. After struggling to adjust, he discovers the area's rich history and culture, including landmarks like the Apollo Theater and Sylvia's, the famous soul food restaurant.

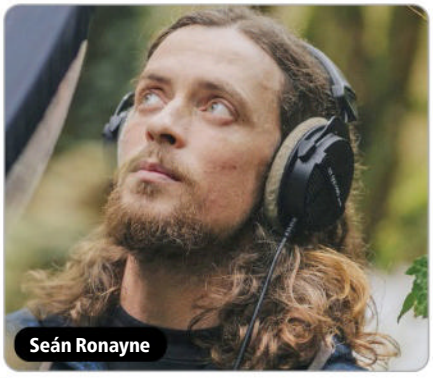
Hall sees *Harlem Honey* as a story for everyone, wherever they are from. "Our journeys start with our neighborhood," she told *Good Morning America*. "I'm from a small town in Texas, but this book is about facing fears, experiencing change, and discovering what's on the other side."

Tamron Hall

DID YOU KNOW?
Harlem was the center of the Harlem Renaissance, a pivotal movement in art, music, and literature during the 1920s and 1930s.

Listening in the wild

Seán Ronayne, an ornithologist (bird expert), is on a mission to record every bird species in his home country of Ireland. His work is the subject of a new documentary, *Birdsong*. He has collected about 12,000 nature recordings, including nearly 200 Irish bird sounds, with only the grey partridge, great skua, and red-breasted merganser remaining. Ronayne, who began his quest in 2018, told the BBC, "I enjoyed telling their stories." He also hopes to raise awareness of threats such as habitat loss that endanger Ireland's wildlife.


Seán Ronayne

Stephen Curry

Player turns coach

NBA star Stephen Curry of the Golden State Warriors is adding a new title to his résumé: assistant general manager of the Davidson College Wildcats. Curry, who played at the North Carolina college from 2006 to 2009, is the first active pro player to hold an NCAA administrative role. Once overlooked by major programs, he led Davidson to the 2008 Elite Eight and was inducted into the college's Hall of Fame in 2022. Now Curry will mentor men's and women's players alongside general manager Austin Buntz. Curry said he is excited to "continue to wave the Davidson flag."

OVERHEARD

"The world doesn't need another copy—it desperately needs your original."

Singer-songwriter and actress Lady Gaga, age 38, who recently won the Innovator Award at the 2025 iHeartRadio Music Awards

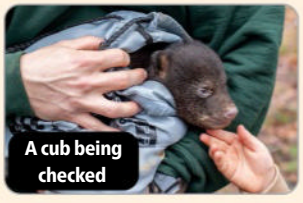
GETTY IMAGES (3); REDUX; COURTESY THE PUBLISHERS

SUPER SENSE
Polar bears can smell a seal, their favorite food, from 20 miles away.

A polar bear family outside their den

Surveying bear dens

Wildlife officials in several US states, including Mississippi and Michigan, have been conducting annual checks of black bear dens to gather information on the bears and rescue any orphaned cubs. In Wisconsin, the public can help by viewing dens from a safe distance and reporting their findings.



A cub being checked

A closer look at polar bear dens

Polar bear cubs spend the first few months of their lives in dens with their mothers, staying warm until they are ready to emerge into the harsh Arctic environment. It has been difficult for scientists to study this important time in a cub's life because dens are often built under the snow in areas that are hard to reach. Now an international team of scientists has found a new way to learn about polar bear dens by using remote cameras.

Pregnant female polar bears typically begin creating dens by digging into snowdrifts in the fall. They then move into the dens, where they will give birth to their cubs in January. At birth, polar bear cubs weigh about one pound, cannot see or hear, and have very little fur to protect them from the cold, so the dens provide vital shelter. A few months later, when the cubs have grown to about 20 times that size, the bears begin to emerge from their dens in order to hunt for food.

Young cubs are vulnerable.

To learn more about the "denning" period of the bears' lives, researchers attached GPS satellite collars to female polar bears in Norway so they could track the animals' location and activity. Once they had located the bears' dens, they installed cameras at 13 different den sites, capturing footage over six years.

The results showed that the young bears tended to leave their dens for the first time on about March 9. The cubs almost never left the dens without their mothers. When they first emerged, the bears stayed outside for several seconds to several hours and then returned to the shelter. They would stay near their dens for 12 days on average, as they seemed to gradually get used to the outside world before leaving the den for good.

The researchers say their findings highlight the importance of protecting denning areas in order to keep cubs safe and help more polar bears survive. "Every den we monitored had its own story," said the study's lead author, Louise Archer. "We're excited to introduce new tools to monitor bears...so that we can work to protect cubs and therefore the species."

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Isle of Rum, Scotland

Most of this diamond-shaped island off Scotland's west coast is a nature reserve. Within it, visitors can find towering peaks, extinct volcanoes, white sand beaches, and dramatic sea cliffs. The island has been designated a dark sky sanctuary because it has no light pollution from streetlights or other artificial lighting after sunset. This not only makes it an excellent place to see stars but also reduces distractions for wildlife, such as the Manx shearwater, a seabird that comes to lay its eggs every spring and summer. Other creatures on the island include highland cows and Rum ponies.

A Rum pony

Animals and the environment

DID YOU KNOW?
There are 5,487 species of mammals on Earth, and about 40% of them are rodents.

A black rhinoceros

Study reveals bias for large animals

When it comes to conservation, size matters. A 25-year study revealed that most conservation funding has gone toward protecting larger mammals, while smaller endangered species have received little help.

A team from the University of Hong Kong looked at 14,566 conservation projects run by governments and non-governmental organizations between 1992 and 2016. They found that out of about $1.96 billion given to these projects worldwide, nearly 83% went to helping vertebrates (animals with a backbone). Plants and invertebrates (animals without a backbone) each received about 7%. Fungi and algae got less than 1%.

Large, exciting mammals like elephants and rhinos received much more support than smaller ones like kangaroos, rodents, and bats. Although experts knew that large animals tend to inspire more donations, the imbalance was more significant than they had realized. In fact, 29% of the funding went to species of "least concern," while many at-risk species got no support at all. The team hopes its findings will encourage people to help more diverse wildlife.

Animal of the week: Velvet worm

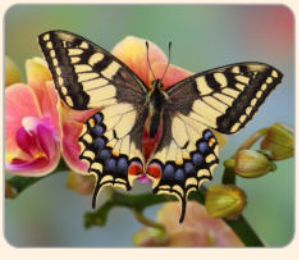
Out of 21 nominees, the velvet worm has been voted New Zealand's Bug of the Year for 2025. These worm-like creatures, which have existed on Earth for about 500 million years, are known as Ngāokeoke in the Māori language.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 5 years
- **HABITAT:** The forest floor
- **SIZE:** 0.5 to 5 inches, depending on the species
- **DIET:** Small creatures like spiders and termites
- **FUN FACT:** They shoot sticky fluid onto their prey and then dissolve it into a soup to eat.

Good week / Bad week

Baw Baw frogs

About 3,000 Baw Baw froglets and 40 adult frogs have been released in the wild in Australia as part of a conservation program. Experts hope this release will help restore the critically endangered species in Victoria's high-altitude forests.



Butterflies

According to a new study, one fifth of the butterflies in the US have disappeared in the past 20 years. Some of the species that have declined most severely include the Hermes copper, tailed orange, and sandhill skipper.

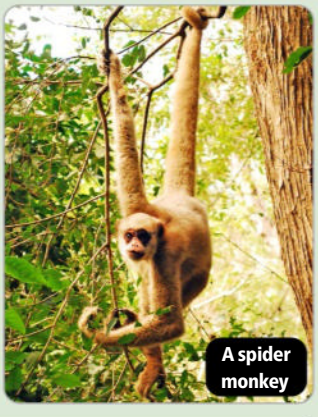
GETTY IMAGES (3); ALAMY; ZOOS VICTORIA; ON LEFT PAGE: ALAMY; GETTY IMAGES (3); MDWFP

ASK AN EXPERT

"How do monkeys swing from branch to branch so well?" Adday, 9, North Carolina

Kim Skelton
Primate care expert,
Brookfield Zoo Chicago

Monkeys are amazing climbers because their long fingers, hands, and arms help them grab branches. Some have a big toe that works like a thumb. Others, such as spider monkeys, use their hands like hooks to swing. Their strong muscles and flexible joints make them agile in the treetops!


A spider monkey

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about Brookfield Zoo Chicago at brookfieldzoo.org.

A historic symbol of

Angkor Wat is an architectural marvel that dates back hundreds of years.

A rediscovered monument complex in Cambodia is one of the largest religious and archaeological sites in the world.

What is Angkor Wat?

Angkor Wat is a temple complex on about 400 acres in Cambodia. It was built in the 12th century by King Suryavarman II, ruler of the prosperous Khmer empire, in the empire's capital city of Angkor. (Today, Cambodia's king lives in the nation's capital, Phnom Penh.) The kingdom stretched across Southeast Asia, from present-day Myanmar to Vietnam. Suryavarman II practiced Hinduism and built Angkor Wat as his kingdom's state temple dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu.

A view from above

A monumental effort

The ambitious structure took thousands of people and about 30 years to build. It was never truly finished, however. The Khmer used sandstone and laterite, a type of strong clay, to build the temple so it would last. They erected five central towers, symbolizing the five peaks of Mount Meru, a sacred place in Hindu and Buddhist beliefs. Angkor Wat features a pyramid-shaped main temple with a 70-foot-tall tower. The vast complex is surrounded by a moat that is three miles long as well as a protection wall that stands 15 feet high.

A TEMPLE AMONG MANY
Angkor Wat is the most famous of about 1,000 temples at the Angkor Archaeological Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
The name Angkor Wat loosely translates to "temple city."

Wildlife at Angkor Wat

Pileated gibbon

Since 2013, several pairs of this endangered primate have been reintroduced to the Angkor forests. In the past decade, at least seven babies have been born.

Asian palm civet

This threatened species is native to Southeast Asia and was re-wilded here in 2023. Its strong claws make it an excellent tree climber—handy for escaping predators.

GETTY IMAGES (7); ALAMY; WILDLIFE ALLIANCE

a lost empire

DID YOU KNOW?
Angkor Wat is depicted on the national flag of Cambodia as a symbol of the country's heritage.

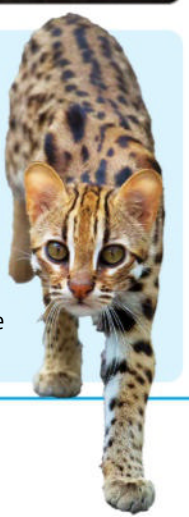
WATER HIGHWAY
It is believed that the large sandstone blocks used for building Angkor Wat were transported along man-made canals.

Oriental pied hornbill

This bird was reintroduced in the region over the past decade. It loves to snack on fruit and insects and has a "horn" called a casque above its beak. It has "eyelashes" that are actually feathers to shield its eyes from the sun.

Leopard cat

A small number of leopard cats, rescued from the illegal pet trade, have been released at Angkor Wat in recent years. These spotted cats enjoy climbing and live mostly solitary lives.



Bas-reliefs of religious figures

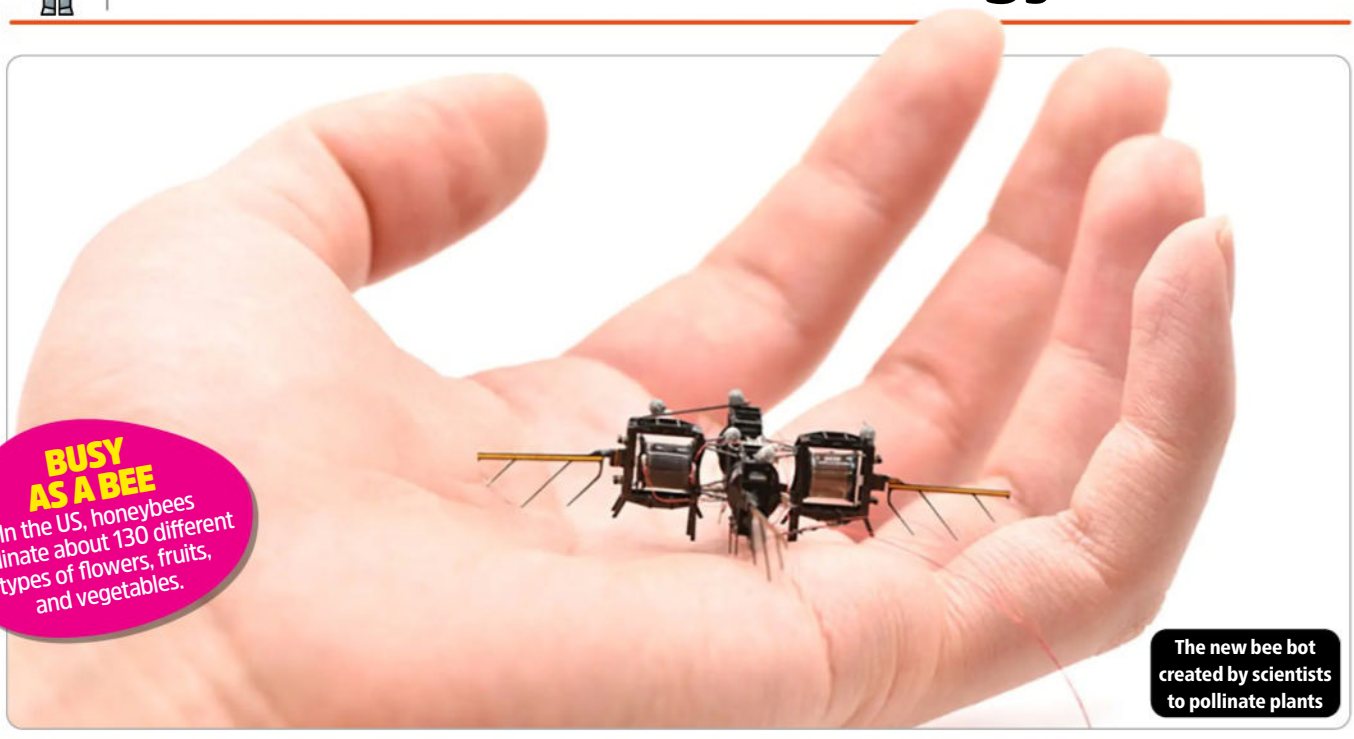
Becoming a Buddhist site

In 1177, during the reign of King Jayavarman VII, Angkor was attacked by a group from what is now Vietnam. The king lost faith in Hinduism and converted to Buddhism. He moved the capital to nearby Angkor Thom and made Bayon the state temple. In the following years, Angkor Wat became a Buddhist shrine, and Hindu symbols and statues were replaced with Buddhist ones. As a result, Angkor Wat has layers of art from different centuries. The temple walls have thousands of bas-reliefs (carvings that project out of a flat surface) depicting important figures in the Hindu and Buddhist religions. Although the site fell into disuse, it continued to remain a sacred Buddhist shrine. The city itself was eventually abandoned.

Monks visit Angkor Wat.

A grand rediscovery

As time passed, Angkor Wat was overgrown by the surrounding jungle. The complex was rediscovered in the mid-1800s by explorer Henri Mouhot during France's colonial rule of Cambodia, which lasted nearly a century. Mouhot wrote that the site was "grander than anything left to us by Greece or Rome." Several restoration projects were undertaken in the following decades, but these were not enough to prevent Angkor Wat from being added to a list of World Heritage sites in danger in 1992. Illegal excavations, land mines, earthquakes, and forest overgrowth took a toll on the structure. UNESCO took charge of Angkor Wat's revival in 1993 and removed it from the danger list in 2004. Today, it is a Cambodian icon, pilgrimage site, and tourist destination, attracting about 500,000 visitors each year.



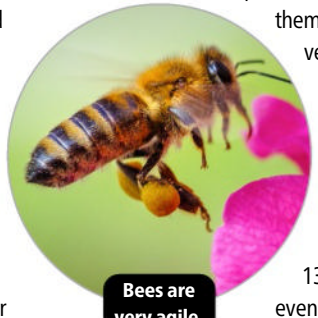
BUSY AS A BEE
In the US, honeybees pollinate about 130 different types of flowers, fruits, and vegetables.

The new bee bot created by scientists to pollinate plants

Robotic bees can zig and zag

A team of scientists has designed a robotic insect that could one day pollinate plants on a massive scale. The technology could allow large crops of fruits and vegetables to be grown while also reducing the harm farming can cause to the environment.

The idea of having bug-sized bots carry pollen from one plant to another is known as "mechanical pollination," and it isn't new. Many people have attempted to make an efficient pollinator bot. But robot bugs have never been as good at doing the job as real pollinators, like bees, are.



Bees are very agile.

Flying insects are midair acrobats that can speed, roll, swoop, and turn. But most earlier versions of insect bots couldn't fly very fast or for long and weren't as agile as real pollinators. That meant they weren't up to the task of spreading pollen.

Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) addressed those limitations with their new bug bot. It can fly for 1,000 seconds—100 times longer than previous versions. It's also lighter, weighing less than a paper clip, and can carry a battery or sensor.

The team has also improved the wings for greater precision and accuracy. Earlier versions of the bot had eight wings. That turned out to be too many because they blew too much air at each other and prevented the bot from flying well.

The new version has four wings, which have better flexure (ability to bend or curve), and improved artificial "muscles" that make them flap. These give the bot better vertical (up and down) movement and power, while also reducing strain on the wings.

The new bug bot can do body rolls and double flips while flying faster than ever before, with a top speed of 13.8 inches per second. The team even had a little fun with it: The bot can be programmed to follow a flight path that spells out the letters M-I-T.

Researchers will keep improving the robotic pollinator, with the goal of keeping it in flight for 10,000 seconds and getting it to take off from and land on the center of a flower.

"With the improved life span and precision of this robot, we are getting closer to some very exciting applications," said Kevin Chen, one of the lead scientists who built the bot.

Helping honeybees

The sensor on a beehive screen

A new system alerts beekeepers when their hives need help. Honeybees pollinate a third of the world's crops, but their population is falling due to climate change and other factors. One big problem for bees is temperature swings inside their hives, which they usually keep between 91.4° F and 96.8° F. If a hive gets too hot or cold, it can seriously affect bees' health. Beekeepers can help regulate temperature, but only if they know when to step in.

The system uses low-cost sensors in the hive to detect and predict temperature changes before they become dangerous for the bees. It feeds that information into a computer program, which calculates the health of the hive. If the bees need help, it sends an alert to beekeepers so they can intervene quickly.

Pony-sized dinosaur fossil revealed

A fossil that was first discovered 50 years ago in Scotland was recently identified as a pony-sized dinosaur that lived about 166 million years ago. Named Elgol, after the area where it was found, it's the most complete dinosaur skeleton ever found in the country.

Elgol was spotted in 1973 in the face of a sea cliff on the Isle of Skye. Researchers left it there because it was too difficult to remove.

The Elgol fossil

In 2018, however, a paleontologist (scientist who studies fossils) named Elsa Panciroli and her team removed Elgol. They docked an inflatable boat at the foot of the cliff and retrieved the fossils from the rock during low tide.

Once in the lab, the team of scientists used noninvasive scans to create highly detailed 3D images of the dinosaur's spine, ribs, and hip bones. They estimated that it was an 8-year-old ornithopod, a group of plant-eating dinosaurs that includes the iguanodon and parasaurolophus. It could be the oldest of its kind in the world.

The region where Elgol was found, which is off the northwestern coast of Scotland, has many well-preserved dinosaurs from the Middle Jurassic period (about 174.7 million to 161.5 million years ago). Experts say more could be discovered.

"It took a lot of hard work from a lot of people, but we did it," Panciroli said. "Finally we can confirm...Scotland's first recorded and most complete dinosaur, and that makes it all worthwhile."

WORLD HISTORY
Dinosaur fossils have been found in more than 50 countries across all seven continents, including Antarctica.

An artist's illustration of the dinosaur called Elgol

Alef Aeronautics' flying car

Flying car takes to the air

A company in California called Alef Aeronautics released a video of its Model Zero flying car prototype (test version). In it, the vehicle drives slowly down a road before rising into the air, moving over a parked car, and landing on the other side.

People around the world have been working to build a flying car for years. Many of those designs are like large drones or have wings that take up a lot of space. But Alef's model is electric and sleek and fits in a regular car lane or parking spot. Alef said it can take off vertically and fly in any direction—even at an angle.

According to the company, the Model Zero can navigate any type of road, drive about 200 miles, and fly nearly 100 miles. It will allow people to quickly get past traffic jams or other obstructions in the road.

The company said it has already received more than 3,300 pre-orders for the car. A release date has not been announced yet.

AMAZING INVENTION

A multipurpose board for gamers

The BoarDrop

Gamers who like to engage in board sports have a new way to play. The BoarDrop is a system that lets players stand on an actual board and move as they would in real life. Players can add a snowboarding, skateboarding, or balance kit to the system's Core Board.

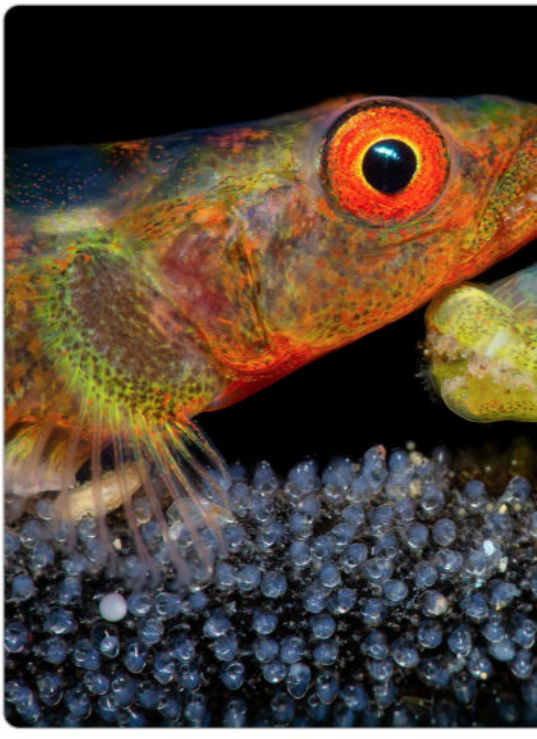
BoarDrop detects a player's movements and wirelessly shares them with a gaming system. Riders spin, twist, lean, and jump along with the terrain they see on a screen, and the system vibrates to let them know if they successfully performed a move.

NEIL HANNA; MAIJA KARALA; ALEF AERONAUTICS (2); ON LEFT PAGE: KEVIN CHEN; UCR PHOTO; GETTY IMAGES

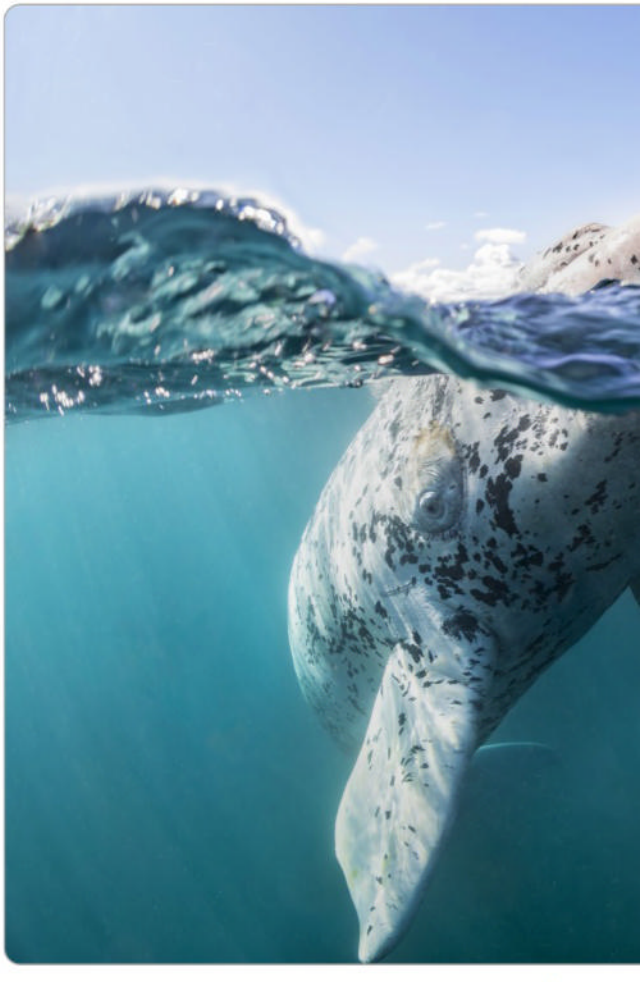
Photos of the week

2025 UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

Deep focus
Patrick Webster took this photo of a sea lion in the waters around the Falkland Islands.



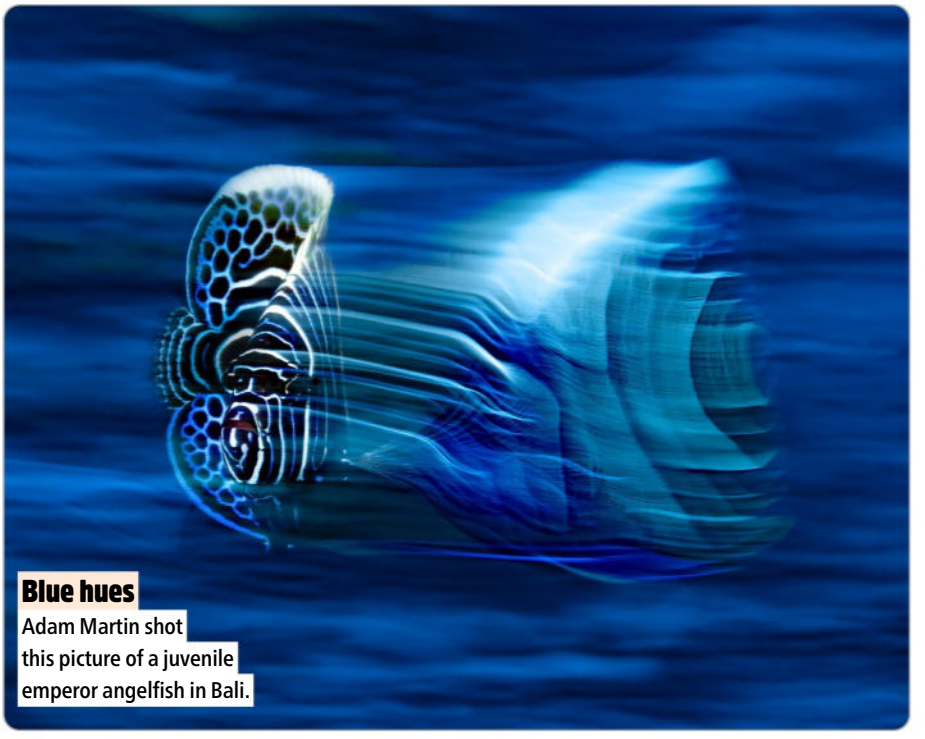
Vivid view
Catherine Holmes snapped this picture of a coral reef in Indonesia.



DAWN MCDONALD; ADAM MARTIN; DORIS VIERKÖTTER; MARK CHANG; PATRICK WEBSTER; CATHERINE HOLMES

Photos of the week

Devoted parents
Two whip coral gobies guard their eggs in this image taken by Mark Chang.



Blue hues
Adam Martin shot this picture of a juvenile emperor angelfish in Bali.

Over and under
Dawn McDonald took this photograph of a white whale calf in Argentina.

Red hot
Doris Vierkötter used a special lens for this portrait of a seahorse near Bali.

WOW! A rookie card featuring WNBA star Caitlin Clark recently sold at auction for $366,000, making it the most expensive female sports card in history.

UConn players (from left) Sarah Strong, KK Arnold, and Paige Bueckers

Florida's Alijah Martin holding the men's trophy

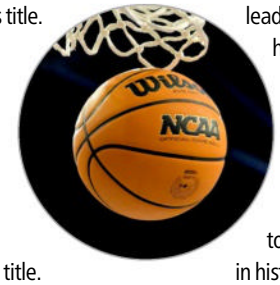
Earning top honors

As the NCAA season ended, two star players—JuJu Watkins of USC (above left) and Cooper Flagg of Duke (above right)—received three of the top honors in college basketball: the Wooden Award, the Naismith Award, and the Associated Press Player of the Year award.

UConn and Florida win hoops titles

On April 6 and 7, the women's and men's NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) basketball tournaments concluded after more than two weeks of exciting action. UConn (University of Connecticut) won the women's title, and the University of Florida won the men's title.

In the women's final, UConn, a second-seeded (ranked) team in the tournament, beat the University of South Carolina, a number one seed and last year's champions, 82–59. It was UConn's first NCAA championship victory since 2016 and their 12th national title.



This year's final was a rematch of the 2022 final, which South Carolina won. In February, the teams played in a regular-season game that UConn won, ending South Carolina's 71-game home-court winning streak.

In the championship final, there were five lead changes within the first five minutes, but after UConn went up 12–11, they never gave up the lead again. They led by 10 points at halftime and coasted to victory after that. UConn's star trio—Paige Bueckers, who is heading to the WNBA, Azzi Fudd, and Sarah Strong—combined to score 65 points. Strong had 114 points in the tournament, the most of any freshman in history. Fudd was named the Women's Final Four Most Outstanding Player.

The men's final featured Florida and the University of Houston, which were both number one seeds. Florida completed a thrilling second-half comeback to win, 65–63, securing the program's third national title. During the game, they only held the lead for 64 seconds.

After a back-and-forth first half, Houston was up 31–28. They got off to a strong start in the second half, and at one time were up by 12 points. Through big shots and strong defense, Florida managed to tie the game, 48–48, with just under eight minutes left to play. In the last two minutes, they held Houston scoreless. Then, with 46 seconds left, they took the lead, holding on for victory with a stifling defense on the final possession.

Florida's Walter Clayton Jr. was named the Men's Final Four Most Outstanding Player. He scored 11 points in the final and led his team with 34 points in their semifinal win over Auburn.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

BASKETBALL

On April 5, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame named its Class of 2025. Honorees include former NBA (National Basketball Association) stars Carmelo Anthony and Dwight Howard; former WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association) stars Sue Bird, Sylvia Fowles, and Maya Moore; and Billy Donovan, who coached the University of Florida to two men's NCAA titles. The class will be inducted this fall.

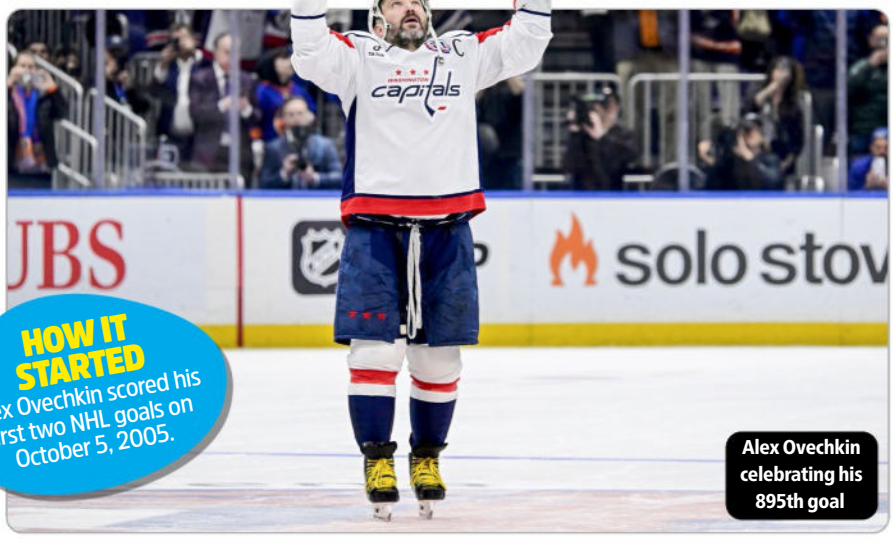
Trinity Rodman

TRACK AND FIELD

Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone of the US won the 400-meter race and 400-meter hurdles at the debut of the Grand Slam Track Series on April 6. She has not lost a 400-meter hurdle race since 2019.

INTERNATIONAL SOCCER

In a rematch of the 2024 Olympics gold medal game, the US Women's National Team beat Brazil, 2–0, in a friendly on April 5. Trinity Rodman, who was back with the US team for the first time since the Olympics, scored one of the goals.



HOW IT STARTED Alex Ovechkin scored his first two NHL goals on October 5, 2005.

Alex Ovechkin celebrating his 895th goal

Ovechkin breaks NHL scoring record

April 6 was a historic day in the NHL (National Hockey League). That afternoon, Alex Ovechkin of the Washington Capitals scored his 895th career goal, the most ever by an NHL player. He broke a 31-year-old record held by hockey legend Wayne Gretzky, who retired in 1999.

Ovechkin, age 39, is from Moscow, Russia, and plays left wing. He was the number one pick in the 2004 NHL Draft and has averaged 49 goals per season. He is the only NHL player who has scored 200 goals in three different decades. He broke the record in the 1,487th game of his career.

Gretzky is known as the Great One, and Ovechkin, who wears number 8, is nicknamed the Great 8. His quest to break Gretzky's record was known as the Gr8 Chase. In November, Ovechkin broke his leg and missed 16 games, making it more impressive that he reached the milestone this season. He tied Gretzky's record of 894 goals on April 4, during a game against the Chicago Blackhawks. Ovechkin could have broken the record with an empty net goal in the game but said, "I didn't want it to happen like that."

His big moment arrived during the second period of a game against the New York Islanders. After he scored with a slapshot, he slid on his belly and was surrounded by his teammates. Although the game was played in New York, the crowd went wild. The action was paused, and Gretzky joined him on the ice for a brief ceremony. Ovechkin, the captain of the Capitals, said in a speech that without his team, coaches, trainers, and fans, he wouldn't be standing there—"and I would obviously never pass the Great One."

COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Brad Taylor**

Team: **OMGS softball**

"We call my coach Coach Mustang or Coach Moustache. His daughter is my best friend on my team. He is kind and funny but takes the sport seriously. He makes practices fun by being really playful. He teaches us great batting mechanics, like keeping your head down or 'squishing the bug' (twisting your foot). He always listens to the girls' opinions and how we feel. He is the best coach I have ever had—and I've been playing sports for five-plus years!" Lucia, 11, Utah

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Carmen Nielssen

AGE: 22 SPORT: SKIING
TEAM: UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE

Early start I grew up in Norway and first skied when I was 3. My parents signed me up for many different sports and activities because I loved being active, but skiing immediately became my favorite. When I was 8, I started racing at my home hill with my ski club. I've always been super competitive, and I told my dad when I was 10 that I wanted to become a World Cup ski racer.

On the go In Norway, it's tough to combine college studies with high-level ski racing, but in the US, the NCAA makes it possible. I had to give it a shot!

Big moments I've won five Norwegian National Championship medals, including a gold. At a collegiate race in February, I came in second place, 0.08 seconds behind the NCAA champion.

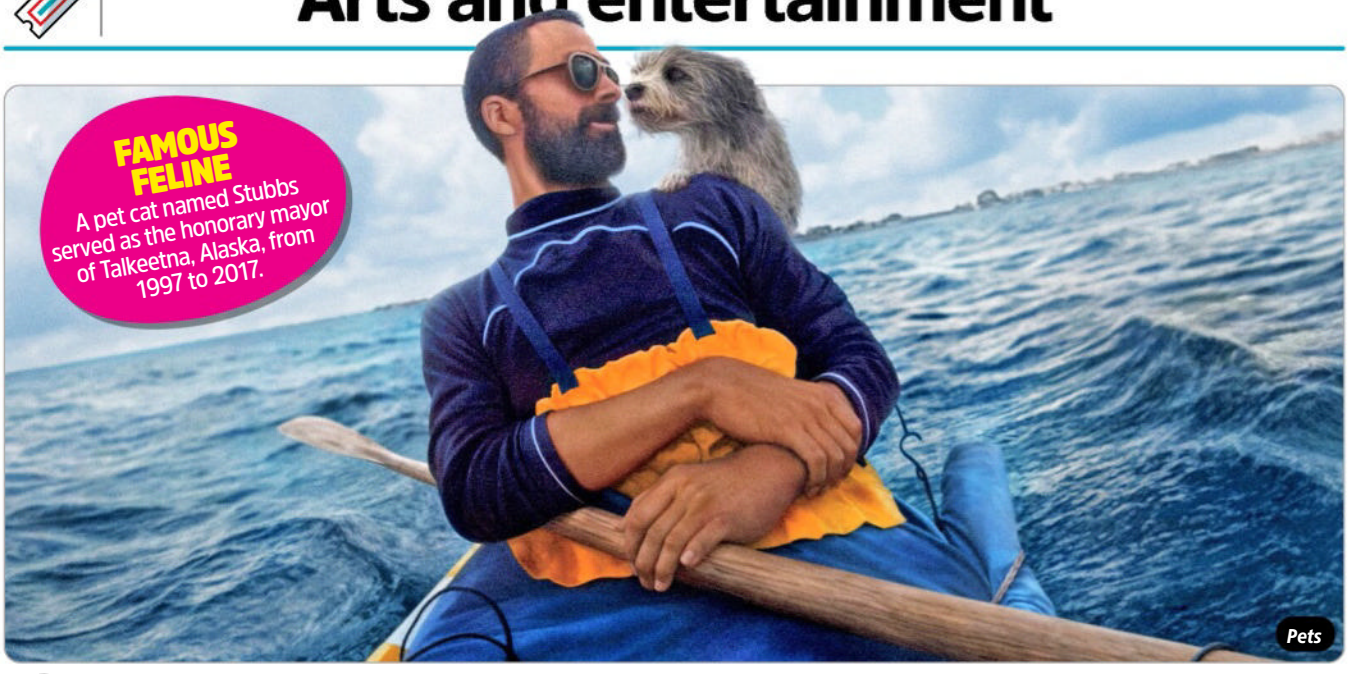
Role model I've always looked up to skier Lindsey Vonn. One thing I especially love about her is that she wanted to compete against the men. When I was younger—and even now!—I always pushed myself to beat the boys in addition to the girls.

Inner voice At the start of a race, I repeat phrases like "Strong," "Aggressive," and "Full attack" to hype myself up.

Peak perks Growing up, the freedom of skiing in the mountains and having fun with friends was the best part of the sport. Now I still love the feeling, but I also appreciate the incredible places I've been able to visit and the amazing people I've met.

Wise words Even when things feel tough, stay consistent and keep looking for ways to improve.

GETTY IMAGES; UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE ATHLETICS (2); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (6)



FAMOUS FELINE
A pet cat named Stubbs served as the honorary mayor of Talkeetna, Alaska, from 1997 to 2017.

Pets

Celebrating a special love

The new documentary *Pets* features stories about the bonds between people and the animals they adore.

National Pet Day was April 11, and that was also the day the new documentary *Pets* premiered on Disney+. The film explores the extraordinary bonds formed between people and animals. It was directed by Bryce Dallas Howard, a star of the *Jurassic World* films.

Howard got the idea to make *Pets* after directing the 2020 documentary *Dads*, which was about fatherhood. She wanted to make another film on a subject many people would find relatable, and she told *The Week Junior,* "I learned that more people have pets than have kids." Howard thinks pets "bring the best out of us as humans," and she wanted to celebrate that relationship.

Bryce Dallas Howard

The documentary includes interviews with children about their pets, viral video clips, and inspiring stories about people from around the world whose lives were changed by animals. Among them are a Spanish adventurer who found companionship with a stray dog he met during a kayaking journey and a couple who care for special needs animals at their North Carolina rescue sanctuary. The film also follows a crew member as he adopts a rescue puppy.

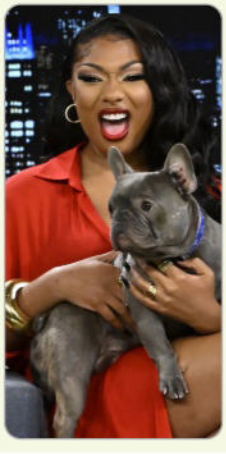
Howard described *Pets* as "a comedy and a celebration" but added that it also touches on the grief of pet loss, which she thought was important. She hopes the film might get pet-free viewers interested in adopting an animal. As for people who already care for an animal, she told *The Week Junior* she hopes it "brings them all the warm feelings, all the giggles, and all the love that they feel when they're with their pet."

3 celebrities and their pets

Glen Powell

While filming the 2024 blockbuster *Twisters*, actor Glen Powell adopted a rescue pup named Brisket (right). The dog became the set mascot, and the star even brought him to the film's premiere.

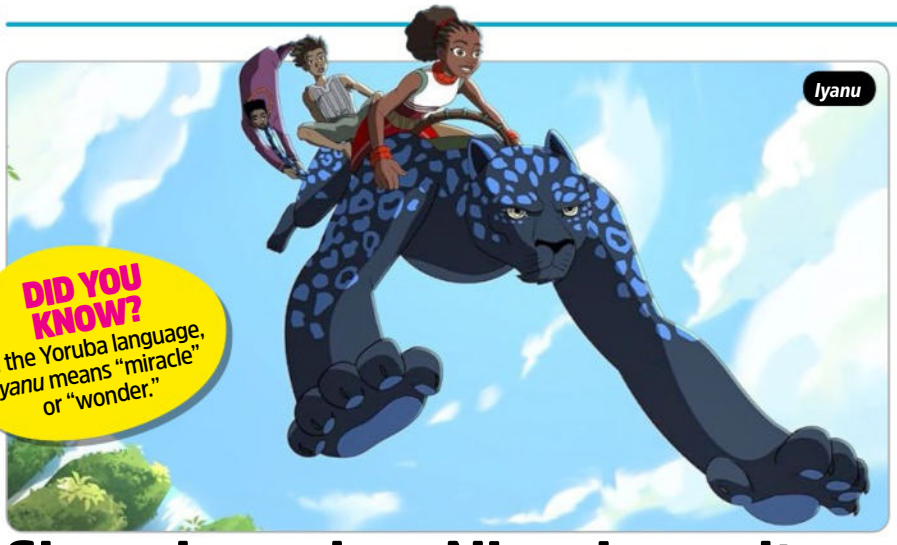
Megan Thee Stallion



Award-winning rapper and songwriter Megan Thee Stallion has several dogs. One of them, 4oe ("Four"), a French bulldog (right), is often at her side when she does interviews. He also has his own Instagram account.

Millie Bobby Brown

Stranger Things star Millie Bobby Brown has 10 dogs (including Winnie, right) and four cats, plus a horse, ponies, cows, and goats on her Georgia farm. She is a co-founder of Joey's Friends, an animal rescue organization.



DID YOU KNOW?
In the Yoruba language, *iyanu* means "miracle" or "wonder."

Show based on Nigerian culture

A new animated series featuring a brave girl in a magical land recently made its premiere on Cartoon Network and Max. *Iyanu* is based on the graphic novel *Iyanu: Child of Wonder* by Roye Okupe, an award-winning filmmaker who created and oversees the show.

Okupe was born in Lagos, Nigeria, and is part of the Yoruba people, one of Nigeria's largest ethnic groups. *Iyanu* was inspired by their culture and mythology. It is set in the West African kingdom of Yorubaland, centuries after an ancient curse turned wildlife into deadly beasts. When orphan Iyanu realizes she has special powers, she sets out to discover their source. Along the way, she must defeat the darkness and restore balance to the land.

Roye Okupe

While he was growing up, Okupe was a fan of action, fantasy, and superhero series, including *X-Men*, *Transformers*, and *Batman*. He told *The Week Junior* he is "a proud nerd" and said he liked "disappearing into foreign worlds—created environments beyond our reality—where you get to see the good guys win."

All the voice actors who worked on the series were from Africa. Okupe said they make the characters feel more real because they understand how people in Nigeria talk, laugh, and express emotions.

The heroes Okupe loved during his childhood drew their strength from empathy and forgiveness. He brought that idea to his series, and Iyanu must decide whether to use her powers for herself or to help everyone—even people who cast her aside. "Empathy is not an easy thing to have for someone else, even for the purest of hearts," he said. "That's the mark of a true hero."

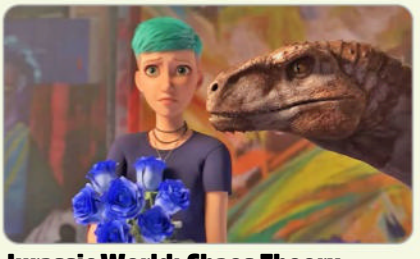
READER RECOMMENDS

Jessie *(Disney+, DisneyNOW, Hulu, or buy on other platforms)*
"This is a hilarious sitcom about a young woman named Jessie who moves from a military base in Texas to New York City to follow her dreams of becoming an actress. She unexpectedly lands a job as a nanny for a wealthy family with four children: Emma, their biological daughter; Ravi, who was adopted from India; Zuri, who was adopted from Uganda; and Luke, who was adopted from Detroit. The group has lots of funny adventures. There are four seasons of the series, and it has a very bittersweet ending. This is such a great show!" Estelle, 9, Oklahoma

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

Doctor Who
(Disney+)
The long-running sci-fi series is back with a new season, the second with the current version of The Doctor, a time-traveling alien. Expect stops in 1952, 2007, and a song contest 3,000 years in the future. This season also includes the show's first-ever animated adventure.



Jurassic World: Chaos Theory
(Netflix)
In *Jurassic World: Camp Cretaceous*, a group of teens were stuck on a dinosaur-filled island. In this sequel series, the characters are grown up. During the new third season, they are involved in a plane crash and uncover a secret operation that could unleash dinosaur chaos on Earth.

Katavi: Africa's Fallen Paradise Sanctuary
(PBS) (PBS.org)
Katavi National Park in southern Tanzania is home to hippos, crocodiles, and lions. This episode of *Nature* captures what happened when a severe drought was followed by heavy rainfall, disrupting the park's natural balance.

WARNER BROS. DISCOVERY; YOUNEEK STUDIO; DISNEY (2); NETFLIX; PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICE. ON LEFT PAGE: DISNEY; GETTY IMAGES (3); INSTAGRAM/MILLIEBOBBYBROWN

WOW! The world record for the longest time a bubble held its shape is 465 days.

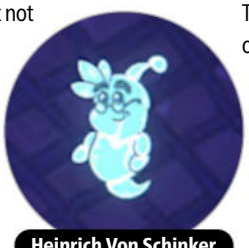
Bubble Ghost Remake

Guide a bubble-blowing ghost

Bubble Ghost Remake is a new action-adventure game. It was recently released for the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation 5, and PC.

As the name suggests, the game is a new version of Bubble Ghost, a simple platform game that came out for the computer in 1987 and the Nintendo GameBoy in 1990. Fans enjoyed the challenging—but not complicated—action that involved controlling a ghost who had to blow a bubble through a haunted mansion. If the bubble hit something and popped, you'd have to start over.

The remake takes the same basic concept and turns it into a more modern game with a story, new challenges, and new characters. This time, the ghost is famous inventor Heinrich Von Schinker, who returns to his castle home after fighting in a war.



Heinrich Von Schinker

When he arrives, he discovers that his wife, Sofia, is missing. Heinrich has to find her, but it won't be easy: The castle is now filled with animals, inventions gone wild, and other obstacles. He must navigate the rooms with the help of a bubble, which he pushes with a gentle breeze.

The spooky, silly game is a side-scroller, but snakes, rats, bats, and other creatures buzz around the screen in all directions. The bubble is very sensitive and can pop if it slightly touches something, so Heinrich has to blow with care. The castle has more than 40 levels, most of them reimagined from the original.

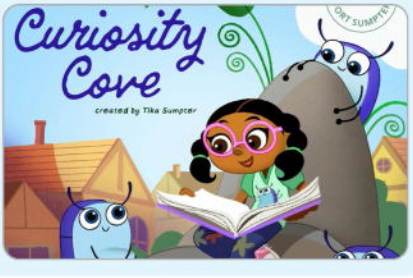
While the goal is to get the bubble across rooms, curious gamers can also search for collectibles that will reveal more about Heinrich and Sofia's story.

PODCAST OF THE WEEK

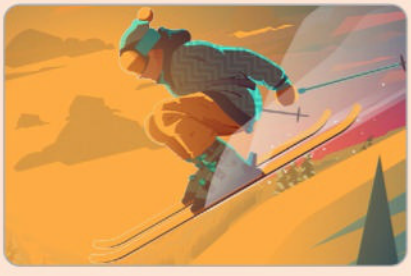
ADVENTURES OF CURIOSITY COVE

Major podcast platforms

Tika Sumpter, a star of the *Sonic the Hedgehog* films, co-created this storytime podcast. It follows the adventures of young explorer Ella the Curious and her friends in their small town of Curiosity Cove. Episodes feature stories related to subjects that include bravery and first crushes.



APP OF THE WEEK



GRAND MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE 2

Apple App Store, Google Play

In this action-filled mobile game, you can ski, paraglide, and zip-line through massive resorts that feature steep cliffs, deep forests, and hidden trails. You can also try challenges such as downhill racing or perform tricks to unlock new gear and customize your player.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT VIKING SHIPS?

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-VikingShips

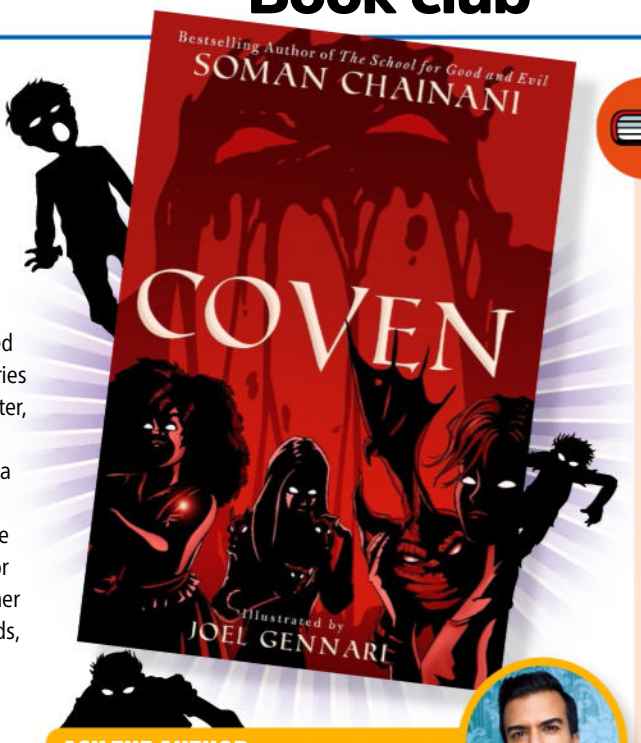
A live-action *How to Train Your Dragon* film, which is set in the world of Vikings, is due in June. In the meantime, learn more about Viking life through this animated TED-Ed video. It explains how their unique longships helped them conquer kingdoms.

NINTENDO; COURTESY THE PUBLISHER; TOPPLUVA; TED-ED

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Coven

By Soman Chainani, illustrated by Joel Gennari
(HarperAlley)



This graphic novel focuses on a coven (group of witches) featured in Soman Chainani's popular series *The School for Good and Evil.* Hester, Anadil, and Dot are awarded Medals of Courage for stopping a war between the fairies and the trolls in the Endless Woods. Since the witches have a reputation for finding peaceful solutions, Mother Sorastra, leader of the Dark Lands, invites them to Red Isle to help solve a dispute with the Light Lands. The citizens of the Light Lands have begun mining for "raaka," a natural resource they use to create inventions, from the river shared between the two lands. Pollution from their mining is killing fish and vegetation, and the Dark Lands want the Light Lands to stop. Hester, Anadil, and Dot arrive just after some citizens of the Light Lands are murdered and their faces are erased. Will the witches be able to figure out who is responsible for the murders and resolve the conflict before war breaks out? Vivid comic panels, including full-page drawings, make the story even more compelling. You don't need to have read *The School for Good and Evil* to enjoy this book. *Ages 10 and up*

ASK THE AUTHOR

Soman Chainani

We spoke to the author of the Book of the Week.

How would you describe this story?
I call it a rip-roaring monster-mayhem murder mystery that's also about nature and how we choose to live as humans. With three witches who are best friends as the main characters, it's also about trust and friendship.

What do you hope readers take away from it?
Friendships are powerful. They can change things inside you and in the world.

What books did you enjoy growing up?
I loved mysteries! I was into the Encyclopedia Brown books and reread them at least a thousand times. Then I progressed to reading all the Nancy Drew books.

How do you spend your free time?
Playing tennis. It's my greatest passion after writing.

Favorite all-time witch?
Maleficent—her glamour, her voice—there's no one like her.

4 fun books that take place in hotels

The setting in these titles leads to big adventures for the characters.

Front Desk

By Kelly Yang
(Arthur A. Levine Books)
Mia and her parents live in a small room behind the office at the Calivista Motel. While they're cleaning rooms, Mia manages the front desk and helps guests. Although her family is treated terribly by the motel's owner, Mia remains optimistic that her family's life will improve. *Ages 8–12*

The Hotel Balzaar

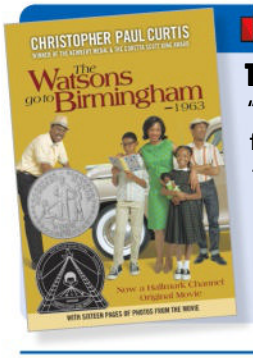
By Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Júlia Sardà
(Candlewick)
Marta and her mom live at Hotel Balzaar, where her mom works as a housekeeper. A mysterious guest with a parrot arrives at the hotel. He tells Marta stories that make her think about her father, who is missing. Could clues about her dad's disappearance be in the tales? *Ages 8–12*

The Lumbering Giants of Windy Pines

By Mo Netz
(Clarion)
Jerry and her mom hear strange messages coming from the radio in the motel where they live. People, including Jerry's mom, begin to disappear in the nearby woods. Jerry vows to find her mother and discovers that the woods are filled with demons. It's going to take a miracle to get her mom back. *Ages 8–12*

The Tontine Caper

By Dianne K. Salerni, illustrated by Matt Schu
(Holiday House)
In this mystery, set in the early 1900s, an orphaned boy lives and works at a small inn when three guests arrive. They are the remaining investors in a tontine, a financial agreement in which the person who lives the longest gets a cash prize. Secrets come to light that may change everyone's future. *Ages 8–12*



COURTESY THE PUBLISHERS; GETTY IMAGES

READER RECOMMENDS

The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963 *By Christopher Paul Curtis*
"This book is about a 10-year-old boy named Kenny Watson from Michigan. He and his family go on a road trip to Alabama to drop off his brother, Byron, who is going to spend the summer with their grandma. This book talks about Black people not being treated fairly and the importance of family. I wanted to keep reading it." Stella, 10, Massachusetts

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

DID YOU KNOW? Monopoly is the best-selling patented board game of all time.

Have fun with board games

Get ready to enjoy some friendly competition!

Playing a board game with family members or friends is a great way to enjoy time together and sharpen your problem-solving skills. Before you roll the dice, check out these ideas for having the most fun with board games.

Choose a game

Many people enjoy traditional board games, like Clue, Life, and Monopoly, which have been around for generations. You may also like modern classics, like Catan and Ticket to Ride, or newer board games such as Cascadia or Hues and Clues. Choose from the games you or your friends already have at home, or check with your local library to find out whether you can borrow a board game. If your family or friends are undecided about which game to play, you can take a vote.

All you need are a little luck and skill.

Set up your space

Pick a spot to play that has enough room for the game and will also be comfy for the players. For most board games, you will need a table and chairs. The dining or kitchen table works, or you could put pillows on the floor around a coffee table and have everyone sit on them for a festive feel.

Prepare to play

First, look inside the box to make sure no game pieces or dice are missing. If you're playing a game that requires people to write down answers or draw, gather enough paper and pens ahead of time—and test the pens first to make sure they work.

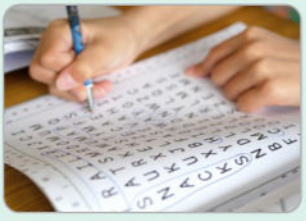
Serve snacks

If you want to add food, bite-size snacks or desserts that don't require utensils are easy to enjoy while playing a game. Bonus points if you match the food's theme to your game. For example, you could pass out chocolate gold coins if you're playing Monopoly.

Give prizes

Prizes can make friendly competition more fun. One idea is to make a silly trophy ahead of time for the winner. They get to keep it in their room until a new winner is crowned the next time you play together. To make one, flip over a plastic cup and glue an old toy or figurine on top. Then paint the whole thing gold. Or make certificates and hand them out as awards for achievements other than winning, such as best game face, funniest joke, or best sportsmanship. The more prizes, the better!

Word game tips



If you enjoy word games like crosswords or word searches, try these tips to ace your game.

Read! **The more you read, the more words you'll know, which will help when you want to use or find them in any game.**

Practice **Playing helps you improve. Find out if your game has a "difficulty curve." (Many crossword puzzles do.) If so, start at an easier level and work up to the most challenging.**

Use hints **If you get stuck, it's OK to check an online game's "hints" or to ask a friend for help. Even pro crossword players admit to looking up a clue now and then! The goal is to keep practicing.**

FUN FACT
The first dyes for eggs were made of natural sources like onion peel, flower petals, and berries.

Make cute and colorful animal eggs

What you'll need

- Hard-boiled eggs (dyed according to food-coloring package instructions) or white plastic or wood eggs
- Solid-colored cupcake liner (for the lion)
- Scissors
- Adhesive dots and/or white glue
- Pipe cleaners (lion and pig)
- Colored paper (like construction paper)
- Black marker or paint pen
- Mini pom-poms (bunny)
- Two-hole button (pig)

Instructions

1. **Lion** To make the mane, cut a hole in the center of the bottom of a cupcake liner. (If the inside is white, turn the liner inside out.) Cut the ruffled edge down a little to make it shorter. Attach the mane to the side of the egg with adhesive dots or glue. (If you're using glue, hold it in place for a minute or two.) Use a black marker or paint pen to draw the lion's face. Glue a pipe cleaner tail to the back.
2. **Bird** Cut out two paper teardrop-shaped wings and a triangle for a beak. Fold the triangle in half, longways. Adhere the wings and beak onto the egg with glue or adhesive dots. Draw on eyes with the marker or paint pen.
3. **Bear** Cut out the paper ears, leaving a small tab of extra paper at the bottom of each so you can glue them onto the egg. Cut out a circle for the snout. Glue the ears and the snout onto the egg and draw on the face.
4. **Bunny** Cut two paper ears and fold them in half. Glue the ears onto the egg, along with a small pom-pom for the nose and tail. Draw on eyes with a marker or paint pen.
5. **Pig** Cut out paper ears, leaving a small tab to glue them onto the egg. Fold the ears in half and glue them to the egg. Curl a pipe cleaner around a thin paintbrush to make a tail. Use an adhesive dot or glue to attach a button for the snout and the tail. Draw on eyes with a marker.

TIP: You can make your own egg holders with toilet paper tubes. Paint the tube green, let it dry, then cut it into 1-inch round pieces. Use scissors to snip one side of each holder to look like grass.

LIFE HACK FRESHEN UP YOUR SNEAKERS

It's easy to get sneakers dirty while walking to and from school and playing outside. You can follow a few steps to make them look like new again. First, spot-clean any scuffs and marks with an all-purpose cleaner. For any tough stains that remain, scrub them with an old toothbrush and a cleaning paste made with one teaspoon each of baking soda, vinegar, and water. Rinse the toothbrush thoroughly with water and scrub the area again, then let sneakers dry overnight. Finally, store your sneakers in a spot where they won't get wet or exposed to sunlight. To keep them smelling fresh, put used dryer sheets in your shoes before bed.

They look nearly new.

GETTY IMAGES (4); JODI LEVINE

Crisscross

Each of these words associated with a courtroom fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid?

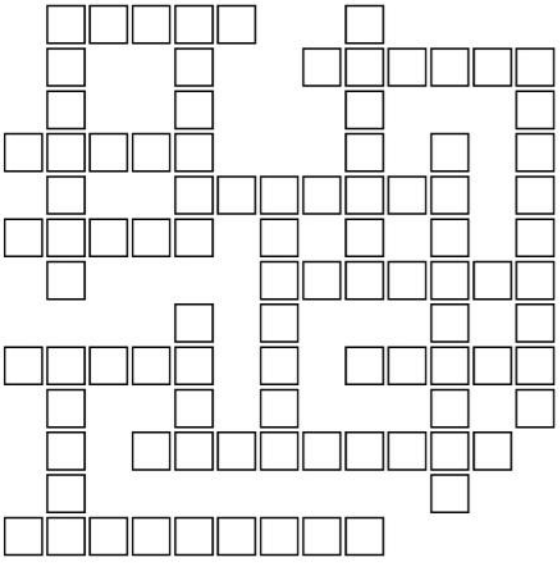
4 letters
FILE

5 letters
ALIBI
GAVEL
JUDGE
LEGAL
SWEAR
VENUE

6 letters
APPEAL
RECESS

7 letters
ALL RISE
LAWSUIT
SIDEBAR
VERDICT
WITNESS

9 letters
DEFENDANT
PLAINTIFF
SEQUESTER
TESTIMONY



Take five

Five 5-letter flower names are hidden in this grid. For each one, the first letter is somewhere in the first column, the second is somewhere in the second column, and so on. Can you find all five? (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

L	U	O	I	Y
D	I	T	N	S
P	O	L	S	C
L	E	I	A	P
T	A	L	U	Y

ALL THE SAME

Each answer contains the letters L-E-T. Those letters have been placed for you. Can you figure out the words?

1. Basic part of a salad — LET□□□□
2. A body that's just bones — □□□LET□□
3. Dance style with tutus and leotards — □□□LET
4. Person who plays a sport well — □□□LET□
5. Bit of greenery to kiss underneath at Christmas — □□□□LET□□

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

SUDOKU

To complete the grid, place the numbers from 1 to 6 exactly once in each row, column, and 2x3 bold-lined box.

	2				6
		4		2	
4			5		
		3			1
	4		1		
5				6	

Spot the difference

These two vintage postcards showing a statue of Noah Webster in his Connecticut hometown appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

Take five hint: One of the words begins with LO.

Will they be a hit?

Game day's tasty new lineup

As baseball season begins, stadiums across the US have introduced a whole roster of wacky foods and drinks. The Seattle Mariners are offering the spicy What Up Corn Dog with a bright green crunchy coating, while the Chicago White Sox cool things down with a Celebration Cake Milkshake. Houston Astros fans can enjoy the Daddy Mac Dog, a footlong hot dog topped with fried pickles, brisket, and mac and cheese, and supporters of the New York Yankees can eat tiramisu out of a novelty helmet. Batter up!

G1, the high-kicking robot

Robot learns kung fu kicks

A video of a robot performing the martial art of kung fu has been released. The YouTube clip shows the robot, named G1, performing high kicks and kicking a baton out of a person's hand. G1 learns using a process called Sim2Real (simulation to reality) in which a "digital twin" studies human movements before its knowledge is transferred to the physical robot. Experts hope that one day these robots will be able to perform complex skills such as medical operations. The robot is now on sale for about $16,000.

The dream team

Dozing bears meet their match

You may have heard of the March Madness basketball tournament, but what about March Napness? An organization called Four Paws is running a competition to champion the bears that sleep the longest during their hibernation. People can fill out brackets featuring 23 brown bears at European sanctuaries. Bears that wake up are eliminated until "the sleepiest bear wins," said organizer Claire LaFrance. She added that bears can teach people that "sleep is self-care."

Real or fake?

Are they turning up the bass?

An underwater disco for fish

The EDF energy company has revived plans for a "fish disco," which is an underwater sound system designed to stop fish in the UK's Severn Estuary from being sucked into a new power station that is being built. Under the new plans, a set of speakers will blast out sound to keep fish away from a water intake pipe at the power plant. EDF has written to local communities reassuring them that it will be "safe and effective" and protect species such as Atlantic salmon and eel. Is this story true, or does it sound a bit fishy?*

*Real! The "fish disco" was suggested as a way to protect fish in the estuary, where many species live. EDF had also suggested creating salt marshes as a new habitat for the fish, but that would involve flooding farmland and homes.

@WHITESOXIMAGE; COURTESY OF ESPN; ARAMARK; GETTY IMAGES (2); UNITREE ROBOTICS; FOURPAWSUSA; SHUTTERSTOCK; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

Editor's note

We have several avid fans of college basketball on *The Week Junior* team, so we've had some lively discussions about this year's NCAA tournaments (p18). If you followed the men's and women's competition as it was happening over the past few weeks, you know that seven of the eight Final Four teams had been selected as #1 seeds before the games began—something that doesn't happen very often. Congratulations to UConn for winning the women's championship and Florida for taking the men's title! In other sports news this week, the US will host the 2031 Women's World Cup—a big honor for America (p3). And Major League Baseball fans are debating the use of a new bat that is shaped differently from the bats that have been used for the past 150 years (p5). What do you think of the torpedo bat? We'd love to hear your opinion at *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

Andrea Barbalich
Editorial Director

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

American Library Association

The American Library Association (ALA) is the oldest and largest library association in the world. Founded in 1876, the ALA works to expand library services across the US. The organization focuses on making it possible for everyone in a community to have access to library resources, giving people opportunities to learn and grow. Find out more at ala.org.

ALA American Library Association

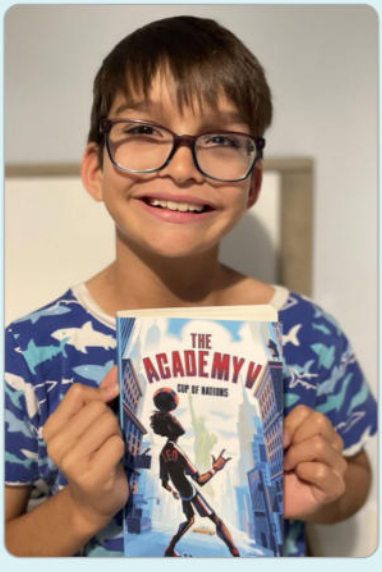
RECENT READS YOU RECOMMEND TO OTHERS

▲ **"*Shiloh* is a very good book about a beagle that is adopted after being abused by its previous owner. Anybody who loves dogs will enjoy this book."** Cary, 9, California

▲ **"I loved *Squished* because the main character is Asian and has lots of siblings, just like me."** Maya, 9, Illinois

▼ **"I started reading *One Wrong Step* to my little brother, and he loved it!"** Sophia, 12, and Noah, 9, Utah

▼ **"The Academy series is great. The fifth book is my favorite one because it has the most action."** Lucas, 10, Florida



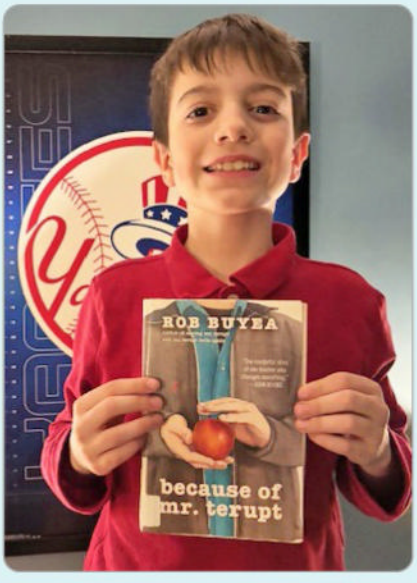
THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

Your turn

Thank you to everyone who has sent us photos of themselves with a book they've enjoyed reading, often based on *The Week Junior*'s recommendation. If there's a title you want to share, have an adult email a photo to *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you'd like to say about why you liked the book.

▲ **"*Salt Magic* is an amazing fantasy graphic novel with wonderfully detailed illustrations and a great story plot."** Elizabeth, 9, Massachusetts

▼ **"I really enjoyed *Because of Mr. Terupt* because all the characters have relatable feelings."** Peter, 9, Connecticut



▲ **"We borrowed books from your Read Across America list that we hadn't read from our local library."** Kavi, 10, and, Sonu, 10, New York

▲ **"*Doodleville* is a fun and exciting book that shows how teamwork is everything for success."** Ashwin, 11, and Kruthika, 6, Illinois

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Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Take five
lilac
daisy
peony
lotus
tulip

All the same
1. lettuce
2. skeleton
3. ballet
4. athlete
5. mistletoe

3	2	5	4	1	6
1	6	4	3	2	5
4	1	6	5	3	2
2	5	3	6	4	1
6	4	2	1	5	3
5	3	1	2	6	4

Quiz answers (from page 30)
1 c) Velvet worm **2** True **3** Raaka **4** c) New York Yankees **5** Elgol **6** a) *Dads* **7** False. It was rediscovered by a French explorer. **8** 12 **9** True **10** a) Sofia **11** True **12** Yorubaland **13** b) March **14** False. It will be the third time. **15** March Napness

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your first name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 What creature was voted New Zealand's Bug of the Year for 2025?

a) Giant springtail b) Praying mantis
c) Velvet worm

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 True or false? Tamron Hall was the first Black woman to co-host the *Today* show.

True ☐ False ☐

3 In the graphic novel *Coven*, the citizens of the Light Lands have been mining a natural resource called what?

4 Which team hit nine home runs in a game, drawing attention to torpedo bats in Major League Baseball?

a) Atlanta Braves
b) Baltimore Orioles
c) New York Yankees

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5 What is the name of the dinosaur fossil that was found in a cliff in Scotland in 1973?

6 Bryce Dallas Howard got the idea for the documentary *Pets* after directing which earlier film?

a) *Dads* b) *Moms* c) *Kids*

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

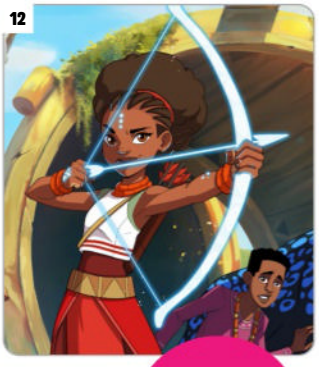
7 True or false? Years after Angkor Wat was abandoned, it was rediscovered by a Spanish explorer in the 1800s.

True ☐ False ☐

8 How many national championships has UConn women's basketball won?

8

12



13

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

7

14

9 True or false? Cory Booker recently set a record for the longest speech delivered on the US Senate floor.

True ☐ False ☐

10 In the video game Bubble Ghost Remake, what is the name of Heinrich Von Schinker's wife?

a) Sofia
b) Stefania
c) Sylvia

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

11 True or false? Scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology created a bug bot that can fly for up to 1,000 seconds.

True ☐ False ☐

12 What is the name of the West African kingdom where the new animated series *Iyanu* is set?

13 Video footage showed that young polar bears tend to leave their dens for the first time during which month?

a) February b) March
c) April

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

14 True or false? The US will host the FIFA Women's World Cup for the first time in 2031.

True ☐ False ☐

15 What is the name of the bracket competition, run by an organization called Four Paws, that showcases hibernating bears?

THE WEEK Junior

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A CASE OF OODLES OF DOODLES DRINKS AND A CLASSROOM SUBSCRIPTION TO *THE WEEK JUNIOR*

"Hi! I'm Millie Eason, and at the age of 13, I've done something that still feels absolutely incredible—I've helped create my own beverage company called Oodles of Doodles Drinks! You know how sometimes you have this brilliant idea that just won't leave your head? Well, that's exactly what happened with our fun, refreshing drinks. I'm really obsessed with our strawberry watermelon non-carbonated drink (it's absolutely dee-lish!), and our sparkling grape flavor is simply amazing!

The most brilliant part about being a co-founder is seeing our drinks sitting on store shelves—I still get butterflies every time I spot them! It's like watching your favorite drawing come to life—but better because you can actually drink it!

When I'm not busy creating new doodles or thinking up drink ideas, you'll find me on the soccer field. I absolutely love traveling around for matches—it's really exciting! What's especially cool is how both soccer and running a business teach you similar things—like working on a team and never giving up, even when things get challenging!"

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